

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

MILK AND DAIRY FOOD SAFETY BRANCH

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

MILK INSPECTION SERVICES: SOMATIC CELL COUNTS IN MILK

The Department of Food and Agriculture, Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch, proposes to amend section 625 of Article 21, Chapter 1, Division 2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:

Section 625. Somatic Cell Counts.

(a) Tests for the presence of excessive numbers of somatic cells in milk shall be made routinely, using the direct microscopic or electronic somatic cell count procedures as described in the Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products, 17th Edition (2004), of the American Public Health Association, which is incorporated by reference, or the California Mastitis Test (CMT) at a frequency of not less than four examinations in each continuing six-month period. ~~CMTs indicating No. 2 must be confirmed by direct microscopic or electronic cell count.~~

~~(b) Any milk classified by the California Mastitis Test (CMT) as No. 3 may be considered unfit for human consumption and may be condemned when found.~~

~~(c)~~ (b) The maximum somatic cell count in market milk is ~~1,500,000~~ 600,000 cells per milliliter (ml) for cow milk and 1,000,000 cells per ml for goat milk. Whenever tests indicate ~~the somatic cell count of~~ raw market milk exceeds the maximum somatic cell count, 1,500,000 cells as determined by a direct microscopic somatic cell count or electronic somatic cell count, the ~~degrade~~ restricted use procedure as outlined in Food and Agricultural Code ~~S~~section 36123 shall be followed. ~~For purposes of reinstatement, CMT tests of negative, trace, or No. 1 will be considered as less than 1,500,000 somatic cells.~~

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 407, 35781, and 36601, Food and Agricultural Code. Reference: Sections 32509, 32510, 32511, 32731, 32761(a), and 35602, 36123, and 36331, Food and Agricultural Code.